required facilities for producing the programmes;

(b) if so, what are the programmes which have been produced there together with the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to make such arrangements there in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Programme Generation Facility (PGF) at Muzzafiarpur is equipped with all the latest equipment/facilities for producing quality programmes. The installation work at PGF, Muzaffarpur has been completed and the programme production at this Centre is expected to start shortly.

Coal Gasifiction Technology for Generating power

564. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal gasification is a proven technology for generating power;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have examined its feasibility;

(c) whether Government have accepted it and have decided to adopt the technique; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) The integrated Gasification Combined Cycle is an economically efficient and environmentally benign technology for power generation. However, no decision has been taken to adopt this technology for commercial power generation in the country.

Joint venture power projects of NTPC in Bihar and other States

565. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NTPC has started joint venture power projects with some international and domestic companies in various States of the Country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no such joint venture is likely to be started in Bihar;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for neglecting Bihar by NTPC; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to establish new power projects and completion of earlier projects in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NTPC has signed a 'Promoters Agreements" with Spectrum Technologies USA, Inc. New York including their associates an Jaya Food Industries. Hyderabad for equity participation by NTPC in Sepectrum Power Generation Ltd. (SPGL)—a private generating company. NTPC's equity in the joint venture would be 10 per cent of the total equity of SPGL.

NTPC has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ABB, Switzerland, for development of a power project and has responded to DESU for its gas based power project at Bawana. NTPC and ABB are one of the short listed project proponents and have jointly submitted a detailed project proposal bid to DESU.

(c) Yes, Sir. No such proposal has so far been received.